

## ABSTRACT

A content distribution mechanism that distributes content of a content provider at various sites across a network and selects the site that is nearest a content requestor using an anycast address that resides at each of the sites. The sites are configured as nodes (or clusters) and each node includes a content server and a DNS server. The DNS servers are so associated with the content servers at their respective nodes as to resolve the name of the content provider to the IP address of the content servers at the nodes. The DNS servers each are assigned the anycast address in addition to a unique address, and the anycast address is advertised to the network (in particular, the network routing infrastructure) using Border Gateway Protocol (BGP). Node selection occurs when the network routing infrastructure selects a shortest path to the anycast address during DNS name resolution.

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